



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
District of Massachusetts

1 Courthouse Way, Suite 9200  
Boston, Massachusetts 02210

August 26, 1999

Vincent F. Ricciardi, Esq.  
47 Harvard Street  
Worcester, MA

Re: United States v. Puggi Vasquez, a/k/a "PJ",  
Cr. No. 98-40035-NMG

Dear Mr. Ricciardi:

This letter sets forth the Agreement between the United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts ("the U.S. Attorney") and your client, Puggi Vasquez a/k/a "PJ" ("Defendant"), in the above-captioned case. The Agreement is as follows:

1. Change of Plea

At the earliest practicable date, Defendant shall plead guilty to all counts in which he is named in the above-captioned Indictment: Count One, conspiracy to possess cocaine base, cocaine and heroin with intent to distribute, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846; Count Nine, distribution of cocaine with intent to distribute and aiding and abetting, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 18 U.S.C. § 2; and Count Ten, distribution of cocaine with intent to distribute and aiding and abetting, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 18 U.S.C. § 2. Defendant expressly and unequivocally admits that he in fact knowingly, intentionally and willfully committed the crimes charged in Counts One, Nine and Ten of the Indictment, and is in fact guilty of those offenses.

2. Penalties

Defendant faces the following minimum mandatory and maximum penalties on each count:

Count One: A term of imprisonment of not more than life with a mandatory minimum ten-year sentence; a fine of not more

than \$4,000,000; a term of supervised release of at least 5 years, and a special assessment of \$100.

Counts Nine, Ten: A term of imprisonment of not more than twenty years; a fine of not more than \$1,000,000; a term of supervised release of at least 3 years, and a special assessment of \$100.

### 3. Sentencing Guidelines

The parties will take the following positions at sentencing under the United States Sentencing Guidelines:

- (A) The parties agree that the Defendant is responsible for the equivalent of 700 to 1,000 kilograms of marijuana.
- (B) The parties agree that the Defendant is entitled to a three-point downward adjustment in his base offense level for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1.
- (C) The parties agree that the Defendant is entitled to a two point downward role adjustment pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3B1.2(b).
- (D) Should the Court find that the Defendant meets the requirements of U.S.S.G. § 5C1.2(1)-(4), the U.S. Attorney agrees to take the position that, based on the information currently available to the U.S. Attorney, the Defendant has met the requirements of U.S.S.G. § 5C1.2 (5).

Based on Defendant's prompt acceptance of personal responsibility for the offense(s) of conviction in this case, and information known to the U.S. Attorney at this time, the U.S. Attorney agrees to recommend that the Court reduce by three levels Defendant's Adjusted Offense Level under U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1.

The U.S. Attorney specifically reserves the right not to recommend a reduction under U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1 if, at any time between his execution of this Agreement and sentencing Defendant:

- (a) Fails to admit a complete factual basis for the plea;
- (b) Fails to truthfully admit his conduct in the offenses of conviction;
- (c) Falsely denies, or frivolously contests, relevant conduct for which Defendant is accountable under U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3;

- (d) Fails to provide truthful information about his financial status;
- (e) Gives false or misleading testimony in any proceeding relating to the criminal conduct charged in this case and any relevant conduct for which Defendant is accountable under U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3;
- (f) Engages in acts which form a basis for finding that Defendant has obstructed or impeded the administration of justice under U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1;
- (g) Intentionally fails to appear in Court or violates any condition of release;
- (h) Commits a crime;
- (i) Transfers any asset protected under any provision of this Agreement; and/or
- (j) Attempts to withdraw his guilty plea.

Defendant expressly understands that he may not withdraw his plea of guilty if, for any of the reasons listed above, the U.S. Attorney does not recommend that he receive a reduction in Offense Level for acceptance of responsibility.

Defendant expressly understands that, in addition to declining to recommend an acceptance-of-responsibility adjustment, the Government may seek an upward adjustment pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1 if Defendant obstructs justice after date of this Agreement.

The U.S. Attorney and Defendant agree that there is no basis for a departure from the sentencing range established by the United States Sentencing Guidelines, except as provided in paragraph 4, below. Accordingly, neither the U.S. Attorney nor Defendant will seek a departure on any ground from the Sentencing Guidelines, except as provided in paragraph 4.

In the event of an appeal from, or collateral challenge to, Defendant's sentence, the U.S. Attorney reserves his right to argue the correctness of Defendant's sentence and the manner in which the District Court determines it.

#### 4. Cooperation

##### a. Terms of Cooperation

Defendant agrees to cooperate fully with law enforcement agents and government attorneys. He must provide complete and truthful information to all law enforcement personnel. If his testimony is requested, he must testify truthfully and completely before any grand jury, and at any hearing and trial. Defendant must answer all questions put to him by any law enforcement agents or government attorneys and must not withhold any information. He must not attempt to protect any person or entity through false information or omission, or to implicate falsely any person or entity. Upon request, he must furnish all documents, objects and other evidence in his possession, custody or control that are relevant to the government's inquiries.

Defendant understands that he has a right to have counsel present when communicating with representatives of the government concerning the criminal conduct with which he has been charged. To facilitate his cooperation, Defendant hereby knowingly and voluntarily waives this right with respect to all debriefings by law enforcement agents and government attorneys and all appearances to testify. This waiver may be revoked at any time by a specific request by Defendant or his counsel without otherwise affecting the terms or enforceability of this Agreement.

To enable the Court to have the benefit of all relevant sentencing information, Defendant waives any rights he may have to prompt sentencing and will join in any requests by the U.S. Attorney that sentencing be postponed until Defendant's cooperation is complete. Defendant understands that the date of Defendant's sentencing is within the sole discretion of the Court and that this Agreement may require Defendant's cooperation to continue even after Defendant has been sentenced. Defendant's failure to continue to cooperate pursuant to the terms of this Agreement after sentence is imposed shall constitute a breach of this Agreement by Defendant.

##### b. Substantial Assistance Motion

In the event that Defendant provides substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of another person who has committed a criminal offense, the U.S. Attorney agrees that, at or before the time of sentencing, the U.S. Attorney will make a motion under U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1, and 18 U.S.C. § 3553(e) so that the sentencing court may impose a sentence below that which otherwise would be required under the Sentencing Guidelines and the relevant statutes. The determination whether Defendant has



provided substantial assistance rests solely in the discretion of the U.S. Attorney and is not subject to appeal or review. The U.S. Attorney expressly reserves the right to decline to file a motion pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1 if Defendant violates any condition of his pretrial release (if any), violates any of the requirements of honesty and candor detailed in paragraph (a) above, or engages in any criminal conduct after the date he signs this Agreement. Defendant may not withdraw his plea if the U.S. Attorney determines that Defendant has not rendered substantial assistance, or if the Court refuses to grant the U.S. Attorney's motion for a downward departure.

c. Sentence Recommendation with Substantial Assistance

If Defendant provides substantial assistance, subject to all the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the U.S. Attorney will advise the sentencing judge of the full nature, extent and value of the assistance provided by Defendant. The U.S. Attorney reserves the right to recommend a particular sentence or sentencing range, or to make no recommendation at Defendant's sentencing.

d. Letter Immunity

In return for Defendant's full and truthful cooperation, the U.S. Attorney agrees not to use any information provided by Defendant pursuant to this Agreement or pursuant to the proffer letter dated December 4, 1998 (or any information directly or indirectly derived therefrom) against Defendant in any criminal case except in a prosecution (1) for perjury or obstruction of justice, or for making a false statement after the date of this Agreement; or (2) for an act of physical violence against the person of another, or conspiracy to commit any such act of violence. The U.S. Attorney reserves the right to respond fully and completely to all requests for information by the District Court and U.S. Probation Office in this case. All such disclosures, however, shall be made subject to the provisions constraining the use of this information by the District Court and U.S. Probation Office contained in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.8(a) and the commentary thereto. Notwithstanding the provisions of U.S.S.G. § 1B1.8(b)(5) and the commentary thereto, the U.S. Attorney agrees to take the position that at the time of sentencing information provided by Defendant pursuant to this Agreement should not be used either in determining where within the applicable guideline range to sentence Defendant or in determining whether, or to what extent, a departure from the Sentencing Guidelines is warranted.

If the U.S. Attorney determines that Defendant has breached

this Agreement by making any false, incomplete or misleading statement, or by providing any false, incomplete or misleading information to any law enforcement personnel, grand jury or court, the U.S. Attorney may terminate this Agreement as set forth below, and may also prosecute Defendant for any and all offenses that could be charged against him in the District of Massachusetts, including, but not limited to, false statements and perjury.

5. Payment of Mandatory Special Assessment

Defendant agrees to pay the mandatory special assessment to the Clerk of the Court on or before the date of sentencing, unless Defendant establishes to the satisfaction of the Court that Defendant is financially unable to do so.

6. Court Not Bound By Agreement

The sentencing recommendations made by the parties and their respective calculations under the Sentencing Guidelines are not binding upon the U.S. Probation Office or the sentencing judge. Within the maximum sentence which Defendant faces under the applicable law, the sentence to be imposed is within the sole discretion of the sentencing judge. Defendant's plea will be tendered pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(e)(1)(B). Defendant may not withdraw his plea of guilty regardless of what sentence is imposed. Nor may Defendant withdraw his plea because the U.S. Probation Office or the sentencing judge declines to follow the Sentencing Guidelines calculations or recommendations of the parties. In the event that the sentencing judge declines to follow the Sentencing Guidelines calculations or recommendations of the U.S. Attorney, the U.S. Attorney reserves the right to defend the sentencing judge's calculations and sentence in any subsequent appeal or collateral challenge.

7. Civil Liability

By entering into this Agreement, the U.S. Attorney does not compromise any civil liability, including but not limited to any tax liability, which Defendant may have incurred or may incur as a result of his conduct and his plea of guilty to the charges specified in paragraph one of this Agreement.

8. Rejection of Plea By Court

Should Defendant's guilty plea not be accepted by the Court for whatever reason, or later be withdrawn on motion of Defendant, this Agreement shall be null and void at the option of the U.S. Attorney.

9. Breach of Agreement

If the U.S. Attorney determines that Defendant has failed to comply with any provision of this Agreement, has violated any condition of his pretrial release, or has committed any crime following his execution of this Agreement, the U.S. Attorney may, at his sole option, be released from his commitments under this Agreement in their entirety by notifying Defendant, through counsel or otherwise, in writing. The U.S. Attorney may also pursue all remedies available to him under the law, irrespective of whether he elects to be released from his commitments under this Agreement. Further, the U.S. Attorney may pursue any and all charges which have been, or are to be, dismissed pursuant to this Agreement. Defendant recognizes that no such breach by him of an obligation under this Agreement shall give rise to grounds for withdrawal of his guilty plea. Defendant understands that, should he breach any provision of this agreement, the U.S. Attorney will have the right to use against Defendant before any grand jury, at any trial or hearing, or for sentencing purposes, any statements which may be made by him, and any information, materials, documents or objects which may be provided by him to the government subsequent to this Agreement without any limitation. In this regard, Defendant hereby waives any defense to any charges which he might otherwise have under any statute of limitations or the Speedy Trial Act.

10. Who Is Bound By Agreement

This Agreement is limited to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, and cannot and does not bind the Attorney General of the United States or any other federal, state or local prosecutive authorities.

11. Complete Agreement

This letter contains the complete and only agreement between the parties relating to the disposition of this case. No promises, representations or agreements have been made other than those set forth in this letter. This Agreement supersedes prior understandings, if any, of the parties, whether written or oral. This Agreement can be modified or supplemented only in a written memorandum signed by the parties or on the record in court.

If this letter accurately reflects the Agreement between the U.S. Attorney and Defendant, please have Defendant sign the Acknowledgment of Agreement below. Please also sign below as Witness. Return the original of this letter to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael D. Ricciuti.

Very truly yours,

DONALD K. STERN  
United States Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES B. FARMER  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
Chief,  
Criminal Division  
  
STEPHEN P. HEYMANN  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
Deputy Chief,  
Criminal Division  
  
MICHAEL D. RICCIUTI  
Assistant U.S. Attorney



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PLEA AGREEMENT

I have read this letter in its entirety and discussed it with my attorney. I hereby acknowledge that it fully sets forth my agreement with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts. I further state that no additional promises or representations have been made to me by any official of the United States in connection with this matter. I understand the crimes to which I have agreed to plead guilty, the maximum penalties for those offenses and Sentencing Guideline penalties potentially applicable to them. I am satisfied with the legal representation provided to me by my attorney. We have had sufficient time to meet and discuss my case. We have discussed the charges against me, possible defenses I might have, the terms of this Plea Agreement and whether I should go to trial. I am entering into this Agreement freely, voluntarily, and knowingly because I am guilty of the offenses to which I am pleading guilty and I believe this Agreement is in my best interest.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PUGGI VASQUEZ  
a/k/a "PJ"  
Defendant

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the Defendant has read this Agreement and that we have discussed its meaning. I believe he understands the Agreement and is entering into the Agreement freely, voluntarily and knowingly.

\_\_\_\_\_  
VINCENT F. RICCIARDI  
Attorney for Defendant

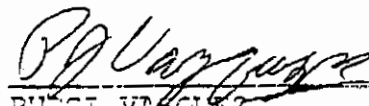
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ON 10/95 08:04 FAX

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PUGGI VASQUEZ

a/k/a "PC"

Defendant

Date: 11/9/00

I certify that the Defendant has read this Agreement and that we have discussed its meaning. I believe he understands the Agreement and is entering into the Agreement freely, voluntarily and knowingly.


VINCENT F. RICCIARDI  
Attorney for DefenseDate: 11/19/00